

Krishna Busawon, and the general cochair is Eric Rogers. The city of Newcastle upon Tyne is situated in the north-east of England on the north bank of the river Tyne. Together with its neighboring town Gateshead on the south bank of river Tyne, they form a single, diverse, and extremely vibrant visitor destination and conference venue.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank the members of the Operating Committee (OpComm) of the seventh IEEE CCTA for their outstanding service in producing a highly informative and enjoyable conference. Dennice Gayme was vitally important as the finance chair. Kira Barton was outstanding as the program chair and put together an excellent program that resulted in uniformly high attendance throughout the conference. Stefano di Cairano, although not officially a part of the OpComm, was key in managing the paper review process on a tight timeline. Alisa Rupenyan was the industry chair and was responsible for pulling in several of our industrial participants, including leading one of the workshops. Jakob Stoustrup,

as the chair of invited/tutorial sessions, recruited some very interesting and highly attended sessions. Tom Oomen's leadership in the registration process was invaluable leading up to the conference online as well as the management of registrations during the conference. Silvia Mastellone was responsible for helping IEEE CCTA greatly reduce its paper footprint by having a conference mobile app and moving much of the relevant conference information online for attendees. Alexandre Bazanella was very responsive in managing the information flow to our website as the publicity chair. Elisa Franco and Michaelle Mayalu were the student activity and diversity and inclusion cochairs, and they did a great job managing the student volunteers. Pradeep Misra was critical

in nearly all aspects of the conference management since PaperPlaza was the content backbone as well as the source of the program. Pradeep did a great job handling technology and logistics for the meeting. Our hotel event coordinator, Richiann Mas-siah, ensured that all attendees had a smooth and excellent experience. Finally, I would like to thank Jodi Gritten, who did much of the behind-the-scenes logistical work that is invisible to most attendees but is the difference between a conference and a wonderful technical experience.

Andrew Alleyne ,
General Chair, IEEE CCTA 2023

Kira Barton ,
Program Chair, IEEE CCTA 2023

The Eighth IEEE CCTA will be hosted in Newcastle upon Tyne at Northumbria University in the United Kingdom.

The 31st Mediterranean Conference on Control and Automation

The 31st Mediterranean Conference on Control and Automation (MED) took place in the cosmopolitan city of Limassol, Cyprus, from 26 to 29 June 2023. Limassol is a modern city with a rich history and includes sites like the Limassol Castle, the Limassol Marina, the Kolossi Castle, and the Kourion archeological site.

The venue for the conference was the Grand Resort, a five-star hotel situated on a beautiful beachfront near the ancient "Amathounta," approximately 11 km from the Limassol City Center (Figure 1). This was the fourth time that the conference was organized in Cyprus. Previous times were in Limassol in 1995, in Paphos in 1997, and again in Limassol in 2005.

The MED conference has been organized with great success around the

Mediterranean region since 1993 and has attracted many researchers from around the world. Previous MED conferences demonstrated the demand for establishing a continuous scientific forum in the fields of intelligent systems, control, automation, communication, optimization, and robotics.

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

To accommodate possible travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

the 31st MED was held in a hybrid format, allowing for both physical presence and remote participation; 182 participated with a physical presence, while 25 participants joined remotely. We received 237 contributed and invited session papers (Table 1). Following a very thorough and in-depth peer-review process in which each paper had at least three reviews, we accepted a total of 166 papers organized in 26 regular and four invited sessions in five parallel tracks. Key topics of the contributed papers included autonomous and multiagent systems, cyberphysical systems, linear and nonlinear control,

robotics, intelligent control, adaptive control, and fault diagnosis and control as well as applications in power systems, automotive control, manufacturing, and biomedical engineering.

The conference also included the following three plenary lectures presented by outstanding academic experts:

- » “Traffic Control Using Automated Vehicles: Distributed Sensing, Actuation, and Learning,” presented by Prof. Karl H. Johansson, KTH Royal Institute of Technology
- » “Bridging the Gap in Prediction, Optimization, and Control of

Integrated Dynamic Systems,” presented by Prof. Jing Sun, University of Michigan

- » “Resilient Robotic Autonomy: Methods and Systems,” presented by Prof. Kostas Alexis, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

The program of MED2023 included five workshops (WS) and one tutorial session (TS) as follows:

- » **WS1:** “Workshop on Adaptive Control to Intelligent Transportation Systems in Celebration of Prof. Petros Ioannou’s 70th Birthday”



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)

FIGURE 1 Photos from MED2023. (a) Plenary presentation. (b) Welcome reception. (c) Workshop in celebration of the 70th birthday of Petros Ioannou. (d) and (e) Banquet dinner.

TABLE 1 Submitted and accepted papers.

Country	Submitted	Published	Country	Submitted	Published
Algeria	8	1	Italy	31	28
Austria	1	1	Japan	1	1
Azerbaijan	1	0	Kuwait	2	2
Brazil	4	2	Morocco	1	0
Bulgaria	2	1	Nigeria	1	0
Canada	7	6	Norway	5	5
Chile	1	0	Poland	4	3
China	4	4	Romania	9	8
Croatia	1	1	Russia	13	5
Cyprus	17	14	Saudi Arabia	1	1
Czech Republic	2	1	Slovakia	1	1
Denmark	2	1	Slovenia	2	0
Egypt	1	0	Spain	2	1
Estonia	1	0	Sweden	5	4
Ethiopia	1	0	Switzerland	2	2
France	19	14	Tunisia	1	1
Germany	27	22	Turkey	3	0
Greece	20	17	United Arab Emirates	2	1
Hungary	3	2	United Kingdom	8	5
India	8	3	United States	7	6
Israel	6	2			
Total				237	166

» **WS2:** “Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) Monitoring and Control for Smart Buildings”

» **WS3:** “Cybersecurity for Electrical Power and Energy Systems”

» **WS4:** “STC 4.0 HP—New Generation of Stoneware Tableware in

Ceramic 4.0 by High Pressure Casting Robot Work Cell”

» **WS5:** “Workshop on Control and Cybersecurity in Connected and Autonomous Vehicles”

» **TS:** “A Review of Wireless Positioning Techniques and Technologies: From Smart Sensors to 6G.”

The conference was organized by the KIOS Research and Innovation Center of Excellence and the University of Cyprus, and it was technically cosponsored by the IEEE Control System Society, the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society, and the International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ICUAS) Association. In addition to the technical program, it included a welcoming reception at the venue (overlooking the Mediterranean Sea) and the banquet at the Dafermou Winery, which is located outside of the traditional village of Lefkara.

The 2024 MED is planned to take place in the scenic city of Chania, on the island of Crete in Greece, from 11 to 14 June 2024. We are looking forward to another successful conference.

Christos Panayiotou 
and **Vicenç Puig**



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